

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated March 30, 2006, claims 1-3, 5-9, 10-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,850,426 to Watkins *et al.* (“Watkins”), and claims 4 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watkins in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,953 to Zey (“Zey”).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 10-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Watkins. Although Applicants respectfully disagree, this rejection is moot in light of the above Amendment. For example, claims 1, 8 and 14 are amended to emphasize that the control interface allows a user to login and perform testing, trouble-shooting or billing updates. (See Applicants’ Specification, p.5, l.3-5.) In Watkins, the user is not able to perform these tasks. (See Watkins, col.8, l.30-34.)

Consequently, Watkins does not anticipate the structure defined in claims 1, 8 and 14 of the present Application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9, 10-13, 15 and 17-19 directly or indirectly depend from claims 1, 8 or 14, and therefore include all the limitations of those independent claims. Since Watkins does not render claims 1-3, 5-9, 10-15 and 17-19 unpatentable, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections thereof be withdrawn by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watkins in view of Zey. Watkins does not teach or suggest claims 4 and 16 for at least the reasons stated above. Zey does not cure the deficiencies of Watkins because Zey also does not teach or suggest a control interface that allows a user to login and perform testing, troubleshooting or billing updates, as recited in the independent claims 1 and 14, from which claims 4 and 16 respectively depend. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 14 are not rendered obvious by Watkins and Zey when considered alone or in combination. Dependent claims 4 and 16 therefore also include all the limitations of those independent claims. Since Watkins and Zey do not render claims 4 and 16 unpatentable Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections thereof be withdrawn by the Examiner.

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present Application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is kindly invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4270.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 30, 2006



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I hereby certify that the correspondence attached herewith is being transmitted by first class mail to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

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